

GENERAL WAIVER COVER SHEET

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2003 AGENDA

Item No. W-7

TITLE: Request by Paramount Unified School District for a renewal to waive <i>Education Code</i> (EC) Section 37202, equity length of time requirement for kindergarten students at Wirtz School to allow full day kindergarten programs.	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC HEARING <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT
CDSIS: 30-07-2003	

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends approval of this waiver for one year with the condition that the district provide an evaluation of the full day kindergarten pilot program before a renewal is considered.

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action:

The State Board of Education has approved similar waivers in the past.

Summary of Key Issue(s):

Paramount Unified School District is requesting a renewal of the waiver of *Education Code* (EC) Section 37202 that states a district shall maintain an equal length of time in the school year for all its elementary schools. The district piloted a full day kindergarten at **Wirtz School** and as a condition of renewal, the district had to submit an evaluation of the pilot program. The district increased the minutes at **Wirtz** to 320 minutes a day and in addition to a core program focusing on student achievement, included a daily program for physical education, health, visual and performing arts and English language development. For the purpose of the evaluation, the district compared results at **Wirtz** to a similar school in the district, **Roosevelt**. The results of the achievements made by the **Wirtz** kindergarteners compared to the **Roosevelt** kindergarteners are written into the evaluation, highlighting the accomplishments made by the teachers and pupils by expanding the instructional time for those children. The evaluation report also lists five unanticipated outcomes at the school, such as: an increase in student attendance, teacher collaboration, and pupil enthusiasm. The students, teachers and parents support this program and hope for its continuation. The evaluation clearly demonstrates improvement in student achievement and substantiates the worthiness of the continuing the program.

Therefore, the Department recommends approval of this waiver for one year with the condition that the district provide an evaluation of the full day kindergarten pilot program before a renewal is considered.

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on: July 2, 2003

Position of bargaining unit (choose only one):

☐ Neutral

☒ Support

☐ Oppose

Name of bargaining unit representative: Terry Race, Robin Devitt

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

☒ posting in a newspaper

☒ posting at each school

☐ other

(specify)

Public hearing held on: July 22, 2003

Local board approval date: July 22, 2003

Advisory committee(s) consulted:

Objections raised (choose one): ☒ None

☐ Objections are attached on

separate sheet

Date consulted:

Effective dates of request: 07/01/03 to 06/30/04

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate):

No impact.

Background Information:

Waiver request forms and supporting documents are attached to this summary.